Public Transport



Listen, read and for statements 1-12 choose a, b, c or d.

Public transport (also called "public transportation" or "public transit") is a form of travel available for use by the general public. Examples of public transport within a city include buses, trams, and subways while airplanes and trains serve as public transport between cities.

Urban public transport may be provided by private companies or through the city government. The government usually pays for the service so that passengers have cheaper fares. Some cities even have free public transit. For example, since 1997 the city of Hasselt, Belgium does not require bus passengers to pay a **fare**.

For historical and economic reasons, public transportation is different in many countries and cities. Countries in Europe and Asia usually have a lot of public transit for crowded cities. Many places in North America, however, have a much lower population density. People are more **spread out** over a larger area of land, making public transport too **costly** for some cities and towns.

Recently, many countries have spent a lot of money trying to grow their public transport systems. The Singapore government, for example, has recently built a **huge** public transportation system that includes buses, trains, and taxis. Every day, 2,500,000 Singaporeans use the public transit system. From morning to night, 5,308,000 trips are made on public transport in Singapore!

About 52.4% of Singaporean **residents** go to work using public transport according to the Singapore Census of Population 2000. 41.6% of ***them*** use private transport and the remaining 6.1% do not need any form of transport. Amongst school-going residents, 41.5% of students go to school by public transport, 24.9% by private transport, and a further 30.1% do not require any form of transport at all. That's a lot of people and a lot of traveling for a small island nation!

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1. According to the article, what are examples of metropolitan public transport?

a) airplanes and trams
b) airplanes and trains
c) buses, trams, and subways
d) buses, trams, and airplanes

2. The word "fare" in paragraph 2 could be replaced with:

a) ration
b) show
c) charge
d) journey

3. The phrase "spread out" in p ;raph 3 could be replaced with:

a) dispersed
b) displayed
c) overlapped
d) absorbed

4. The word "costly" in paragraph 3 could be replaced with:

a) pricey
b) priceless
c) valuable
d) inexpensive

5. According to the article, why is there good public transport in places like Asia and Europe?

a) it has been free to use since 1997
b) the cities are more crowded
c) the government is generous
d) they care about the environment

6. Paragraph 3 is about:

a) reasons why Asia usually has a lot more very crowded cities
b) reasons why public transport differs between countries and cities
c) reasons why North America has a much lower population density
d) environmental reasons why public transport is different in many cities

7. The word "huge" in paragraph 4 could be replaced with:

a) exotic
b) extensive
c) expensive
d) extreme

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8. According to the article, how many journeys are made on public transport in Singapore each day?

a) less than five million
b) more than five million
c) roughly two and a half million
d) roughly two hundred and fifty thousand

9. The word "residents" in paragraph 5 could be replaced with:

a) inmates
b) enclosures
c) inhabitants
d) immigrants

10. The word "them" in paragraph 5 refers to:

a) Singaporean residents
b) school-going residents
c) the government workers
d) public transport workers

11. According to the article, what percentage of Singapore students use public transit to get to school?

a) 6.1
b) 41.5
c) 41.6
d) 52.4

12. What can be inferred about transport in Singapore?

a) most Singaporeans prefer to use private transport
b) all students in Singapore are required to use public transport
c) public transport in Singapore is very expensive
d) Singapore has a successful public transport system

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